

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06158 071149Z

53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 SCCT-01 FAA-00

DOT-00 IO-10 OC-05 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02 COME-00

/080 W

----- 074244

O 071035Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 916

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LAYZRE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 6158

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJ: EXPLOSION ON PARKED PIA AIRCRAFT

1. AN EXPLOSION, THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A BOMB, CAUSED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO A PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (PIA) BOEING 707 AT RAWALPINDIN/ISLAMABAD AIRPORT LATE JUWA 5. ACCORDING TO PRESS, NO ONE WAS INJURED BY THE EXPLOSION WHICH REUTERS CORRESPONDENT GRAHAM SLVWART SAYS RIPPED A THREE TO FOUR FOOT HOLE IN THE AIRCRAFT'S FUSELAGE AT ABOUT 8:30 PM. THE AIRCRAFT, WHICH HAD ARRIVED ABOUT ONE HALF HOUR EARLIER FROM KARACHI AS DOMESTIC FLIGHT PK 308, WAS BEING SERVICED PRIOR TO RETURNING THERE AS FLIGHT PK 309 AT 9:00 PM. HAD THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED IN MID-AIR, THE AIRCRAFT WOULD MOST PROBABLY HAVE BEEN IN SERIOUS DANGER.

2. PIA OFFICIALS ARE CLOSE MOUTHED ABOUT THE BLAST, WHICH IS UNDER INVESTIGATION AND ARE APPARENTLY UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06158 071149Z

INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO TALK TO THE PRESS. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS DID CONFIRM TO STEWART THAT A BOMB HAD APPARENTLY BEEN

PLACED UNDER A PASSENGER SEAT.

STEWART TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE HAD SEEN THE HOLE IN THE FUSELAGE FROM A DISTANCE. PAKISTAN TIMES JULY 7 ARTICLE REPORTING MATTER MENTIONS ONLY THAT AN EXPLSION TOOK PLACE AND DOES NOT MENTION A BOMB. ACCORDING TO PRESS, AIRCRAFT WILL BE SERVICEABLE IN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS, THUS INDICATING APPRECIABLE DAMAGE.

3. IF INDEED THE EXPLOSION, AS SEEM LIKELY , WAS CAUSED BY A BOMB, ONE CAN ONLY SPECULATE AS TO THE BOMBER'S INTENTIONS. AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE DEVICE WAS ABOARD DURING THE FLIGHT TO RAWALPINDI OR WAS PLACED ABOARD HERE. AND, REGARDLESS OF WHERE IT ORIGINATED, WE DO NOT KNOW IF IT WAS INTENDED TO EXPLODE IN MID-AIR OR WHILE THE AIRCRAFT WAS ON THE GROUND. ACCORDING TO STEWARD, PIA CHAIRMAN AIR MARSHAL (RETIRED) NUR KHAN CONSIDERS THAT THE BOMB WAS TIMED TO GO OFF ON THE RUNWAY. NUR KHAN, WHO SAID THAT A MID-AIR EXPLOSION WOULD HAVE BEEN DISASTROUS, TOLD STEWARD JULY 8 THAT HE FELT TERRORISTS WERE MERELY TRYING TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY BY BLOWING UP THE PLANE ON THE RUNWAY AND WERE NOT TRYING TO TAKE LIVES AS WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE BY A MID-AIR BLAST. THE CHAIRMAN DID NOT SPECULATE ON THE IDENTITY OF THE PRESUMED TERRORISTS.

4. CONSULATE KARACHI WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH PIA HEAD-QUARTERS AND DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION TO TRY AND LEARN MORE FACTS ABOUT THE CASE.

5. TO DATE, WE HAVE HEARD NO ALLEGATIONS THAT ANY POLITICAL PARTY WAS INVOLVED IN THE MATTER.
LUPPI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLOSIONS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA06158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0779
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750782/aaaacuuv.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPLOSION ON PARKED PIA AIRCRAFT
TAGS: PINS, PK, PIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006